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Ref. No.: 12439-0190

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Erin Cowles

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/035,633
Applicant : Benjamin Niles Eldridge
Filed : December 28, 2001
TC/A.U. : 3729
Examiner : Arbes, Carl J.

Confirmation No. 6089

Docket No. : P3C1-US

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s). Applicants ask that the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be initialed and returned in accordance with MPEP §609. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

COMMONLY OWNED, RELATED U.S. PATENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Applicants note that citation numbers 1-3 and 9-16 in the attached listing are U.S. patents or applications that are commonly owned with the above-identified patent application and may contain subject matter that is related to the subject matter of the above-identified patent application. The Examiner's attention is therefore directed to the prosecution history of the foregoing related U.S. patent(s) and patent application(s) and prior art cited in these patent(s) and patent application(s); Applicants assume the Examiner has access to all of the prosecution history, including the cited prior art, of these patents(s) and patent application(s), but Applicants will provide copies of all or any part of the prosecution history of or prior art from any of these patent(s) or patent application(s) upon request.

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- ☐ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):
- ☐ It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)); or
 - ☐ It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage; or
 - ☐ It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits; or
 - ☐ It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.
- ☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed three months after the filing date of a national application or entry of the national stage in an international application and the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:
- ☐ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **or**
 - ☒ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:
- a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **and**
 - a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.


Fee:

- ☐ No fee is due.
- ☒ A check that includes \$180.00 for the above-identified fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ A credit card payment form providing \$_____ for the above-identified fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ This statement is filed as one part of a multi-part submission. The fee for the complete submission was included in an electronically filed submission on __. Applicants request the foregoing fee be accepted for this statement. (See OG Notice dated 17 September 2002.)

Respectfully submitted,

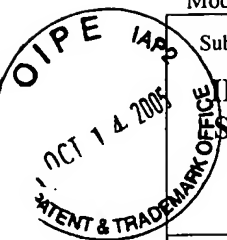
Date: October 11, 2005

By


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Modified Form PTO/SB/08A



Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete If Known

Application Number	10/035,633
Filing Date	December 28, 2001
First Named Inventor	Benjamin Niles Eldridge
Group Art Unit	3729
Examiner Name	Carl J. Arbes
Attorney Docket No.	P3C1-US

Sheet	1	of	1
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U.S. PUBLISHED PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publ./Issue Date	Related [#]	Copy Enclosed
		Number	Kind Code ²				
	1.	2003/0199179		Dozier, II et al.	10/23/2003	x	Yes
	2.	2001/0015652		Eldridge et al.	8/23/2001	x	Yes
	3.	2001/0002341		Eldridge et al.	5/31/2001	x	Yes
	4.	4,518,112		Miller et al	05/1985		No**
	5.	5,103,557		Leedy	04/14/1992		Yes
	6.	5,255,431		Burdick	10/26/1993		Yes
	7.	5,265,321		Nelson, et al	11/30/1993		Yes
	8.	5,518,964		DiStefano et al	05/21/1996		Yes
	9.	6,042,712		Mathieu	03/2000	x	Yes
	10.	6,090,261		Mathieu	07/2000	x	Yes
	11.	6,110,823		Eldridge et al	08/29/2000	x	Yes
	12.	6,334,247		Beaman et al	01/2002	x	No**
	13.	6,336,269		Eldridge et al	01/08/2002	x	Yes
	14.	6,727,579		Eldridge et al	04/27/2004	x	Yes
	15.	6,778,406		Eldridge et al	08/17/2004	x	Yes
	16.	6,835,898		Eldridge et al	12/28/2004	x	Yes

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publ. Date	T ⁶	Copy Enclosed
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				
	17.	JP	60150657		Yoshida et al.	8/8/1985	x	Yes

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

** Reference cited in parent application US Serial No. 09/746,960. 37 CFR § 1.98(d)

*** Pre-OG Notice By Deputy Commissioner Stephen G. Kunin dated July 11, 2003 waiving the requirement to file copies of US patent publications in applications filed after June 30, 2003.

& Notice dated October 19, 2004 by Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy waiving requirement to file copies of pending US patent applications if the applications are stored in the USPTO's IFW system.

Commonly owned US patent or application whose subject matter may be related to the subject matter of the instance patent application.